

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: GDR PREPARATIONS FOR 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LIBERATION FROM FASCISM

1. SUMMARY: IN THE LATEST OF A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SERIES
OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS GEARED TO STIMULATE
PRODUCTION AND LEND HISTORICAL LEGITIMACY TO THE SED
REGIME, THE GDR HAS OFFICIALLY SOUNDED THE CALL TO
BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LIBERATION FROM FASCISM ON MAY 8, 1975. ALL EAST
GERMAN NEWSPAPERS JANUARY 22 CARRIED A TWO-PAGE
MESSAGE OF EXHORTATION SIGNED BY THE SED CENTRAL
COMMITTEE, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE COUNCIL OF STATE,
AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL FRONT
OUTLINING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MAY 8, 1945,
AND CALLING ON ALL GDR CITIZENS TO REDOUBLE THEIR
EFFORTS TO FULFILL THE 1975 PLAN AND PAVE THE WAY

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FOR THE 1XTH SED PARTY CONGRESS IN 1976. END SUMMARY:

2. NO SOONER HAD THE VARIOUS WORKERS COMPETITIONS AND IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGNS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GDR'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY REACHED THEIR CONCLUSION LAST OCTOBER 7, THAN THE NEXT IMPORTANT GDR ANNIVERSARY WAS ANNOUNCED: MAY 8, 1975, THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION FROM FASCISM. IN HIS POLITIBURO REPORT TO THE 13TH EETING OF THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON DECEMBER 12, 1974, CENTRAL COMMITTEE FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER REFERRED TO THE "NEW LEVELS OF SOCIALIST COMPETITION AND MANY-SIDED SOCIAL INITIATIVES" THAT WOULD ACCOMPANY PREPARATIONS FOR THE MAY 8TH CELEBRATION, AND ALL HIGH SED OFFICIALS HAVE RITUALISTICALLY REFERRED TO THE EVENT IN RECENT SPEECHES. THE OFFICIAL CALL HAS NOW APPEARED IN A TWO-PAGE BANNER HEADLINED "SUMMONS"(AUFRUF) SIGNED BY THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE COUNCIL OF STATE, AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL FRONT AND CARRIED IN ALL EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS ON JANUARY 22. THE ARTICLE IS EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LIBERATION FROM FASCISM BY THE SOVIET ARMY AND A CALL FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION THROUGH COMPETITION GEARED TO THE MAY 8 CELEBRATIONS.

3. SECTION I OF THE JANUARY 22 MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS THE VICTORY OF THE SOVIET ARMY AND THE BIRTH OF THE GDR. AFTER ENUMERATING THE LOSSES SUFFERED BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES DURING WORLD WAR II AND STRESSING THAT THE "LEGACY OF THE DEAD IS OUR OBLIGATION," THE AUTHORS INTERPRET THE WAR AS A NECESSARY RESULT OF GERMAN FASCISM AND FASCISM IN TURN AS THE NECESSARY RESULT OF CAPITALISM IN ITS IMPERIALIST STAGE. MAY 8, 1945, THUS APPEARS AS THE EXPRESSION OF THE SUPERIORITY OF THE SOCIALIST STATE AND SOCIAL ORDER OVER IMPERIALISM, ALTHOUGH THE AUTHORS GRANT THAT THE VICTORY WAS ASSURED BY A BROAD ANTI-FASCIST FRONT THAT INCLUDED THE USA, GREAT BRITAIN, AND FRANCE. AGAIN AND AGAIN THE MESSAGE POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE VICTORY OF THE RED ARMY ALONE LED TO THE "GREATEST

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EVENT IN HUMAN HISTORY SINCE RED OCTOBER" AND MADE POSSIBLE THE FOUNDING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GDR, WHICH HAD AS ITS PREREQUISITE A RENEWAL OF THE CONSCIOUSNESS AND CULTURE OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE UNDER SOCIALISM AND THROUGH UNSHAKEABLE FRIENDSHIP" WITH THE SOVIET UNION. SUCH EMPHASIS ON TIES TO THE SOVIET UNION IS COMMONPLACE IN GDR IDEOLOGICAL TRACTS, BUT I IS UNUSUALLY STRONG IN THIS MESSAGE WHICH PORTRAYS THE USSR

AS SAVIOR, MIDWIFE, AND BROTHERLY PROTECTOR WHOSE 20 MILLION DEAD MADE POSSIBLE THE TRANSITION FROM THE HORRORS OF FASCISM TO THE FRUITS OF SOCIALISM.

4. IN SECTION II THE AUTHORS FOCUS ON THREE BASIC TENETS OF CURRENT GDR FOREIGN POLICY: A RAPID CONCLUSION OF CSCE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, A CONTINUATION OF DETENTE IN SPITE OF INCREASED ACTIVITY BY REACTIONARY FORCES IN THE WEST, AND A FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN "THE SOCIALIST GDR AND THE CAPITALIST FRG." DUE TO THE CORRECT LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET BLOC, IMPERIALIST FORCES ARE SEEN HAVING TO ADJUST TO NEW POWER REALITIES IN THE WORLD-SUCH AS THE INCREASED STRENGTH OF SOCIALISM IN DEFENSE OF PEACE--WHICH ALONE MAKE DETENTE POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH MENTION IS MADE OF CONSERVATIVE TRENDS IN THE WEST AND OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A "SUDDEN CHANGE" IN THE WORLD SITUATION" (JAEHE WENDE", A FREQUENT THEME IN RECENT SED SPEECHES), THE AUTHORS EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROCESS OF DETENTE WILL CONTINUE.

5. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH LENGTHY EXHORTATIONS TO HIGHER PRODUCTION IN ALL AREAS (THE CURRENT SLOGAN: "FROM EVERY MARK, FROM EVERY HOUR OF WORKING TIME, FROM EVERY GRAM OF MATERIAL A HIGHER UTILIZATION") TO FULFILL THE DICTATES OF THE VIITH PARTY CONGRESS AND TO ASSURE "A CONTINUALLY GREATER SATISFACTION OF THE MATERIAL AND CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH CONSTANTLY MORE PRODUCTIVE WORK." SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON THE VARIOUS WORKERS' COMPETITIONS IN HONOR OF MAY 8 AND ON THE YOUTH OF THE GDR, A THEME ECHOED IN A FOLLOW-UP REPORT IN SED PARTY ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND

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ON JANUARY 23 COVERING A SPEECH BY ERICH MUECKENBERGER, POLITBURO MEMBER AND MEMBER OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE COMMITTEE OF WHICH STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPRESSING UPON A NEW GENERATION THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORICAL ROLE OF THE SOVIET ARMY AND THE VICTORY OF MAY 8, 1945.

6. COMMENT: THE GDR HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED A SPECIFIC SCHEDULE FOR THE MAY 8 CELEBRATIONS IN BERLIN AND HAS MADE NO REFERENCE TO A POTENTIAL GDR MILITARY DISPLAY IN BERLIN ON THAT DATE. GDR FONMIN OFFICIALS HAVE ALLUDED TO THE MAY 8 ANNIVERSARY WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, EACH TIME PROBING THE POSSIBILITY OF US PARTICIPATION, OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL, IN THE CELEBRATIONS, AND WE HAVE REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL

IT IS LIKELY, WE BELIEVE, THAT THE GDR WILL ISSUE INFORMAL INVITATIONS TO PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE US TO PARTICIPATE IN CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CELEBRATIONS. A CASE IN POINT WOULD BE THE ANNUAL OBSERVANCE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEETING OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN TROOPS AT THE ELBE IN 1945. FONMIN OFFICIALS HAVE POINTED OUT TO US THAT AMERICAN VETERANS HAVE IN THE RECENT PAST COME PRIVATELY TO THE GDR TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT CEREMONIES AT THE ELBE TO MARK THAT OCCASION, AND MAY DO SO AGAIN THIS YEAR. WE WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEE POSTS INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER. COOPER

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